

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for marking a bodily site in a patient comprising the steps of:
identifying the bodily site; and
positioning a pledget of absorbable sponge material adjacent the bodily site wherein the absorbable sponge material includes a contrasting agent.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the contrasting agent is water insoluble.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of tantalum, tantalum oxide, barium sulfate, gold, tungsten, and platinum and mixtures thereof.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the contrasting agent is water soluble.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of metrizamide, iopamidol, iothalamate sodium, iodamide sodium, and meglumine and mixtures thereof.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the sponge material comprises a gelatin based sponge.
7. The method for performing a biopsy comprising the steps of:
removing tissue from a vascular tissue site; and
positioning a pledget of absorbable sponge material adjacent the vascular tissue site wherein the absorbable sponge material includes a contrasting agent.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the contrasting agent is water insoluble.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of tantalum, tantalum oxide, barium sulfate, gold, tungsten, and platinum and mixtures thereof.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the contrasting agent is water soluble.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of metrizamide, iopamidol, iothalamate sodium, iodomide sodium, and meglumine and mixtures thereof.

12. A liquid permeable, absorbable gelatin sponge that is prepared by a process that comprises the steps of:

- (a) preparing an aqueous gelatin solution;
- (b) adding an organic solvent in the aqueous gelatin solution to form a second solution;
- (c) incubating the second solution;
- (d) forming a foam from the second solution wherein a contrasting agent is added to the second solution at any step prior to forming the foam; and
- (e) drying the foam.

13. The gelatin sponge of claim 12 wherein step (d) comprises whipping the second solution until a foam is produced.